

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-2 have been amended and are pending in this application. Claims 3-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §101. The rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 3 and 4, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have carefully considered the points of rejection made by the Examiner, and claim 2 has been amended to address these points. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claim 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka, U.S. Patent No. 6,820,168. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka '467 in view of Witkowski, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0030766. Claim 6 is

rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka '168 in view of Witkowski '766 and further in view of Eguchi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0159058.

Claims 3-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the rejections applied to these claims. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to clarify that which the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection for the following reasons.

According to the present invention, a program identifier is used in an access control method for accessing a storage apparatus. On the basis of the program identifier, the storage apparatus or the network apparatus determines whether or not execution of the IO command received along with the program identifier is allowed. By the present invention, the program identifier can be delivered to the storage apparatus or the network apparatus without changing the protocol of communication between the computer and the storage apparatus or the network apparatus by embedding the program identifier in a special value included in the IO command or an IO request made to generate the IO command.

In particular, the original address included in an I/O request and the program identifier are used as two input values of a function that generates a new address, which is different from the original address. The new address has the program identifier appended thereto. *See*, page 10, lines 12-15 of the specification. In addition, an inverse function $g(z)$ is used as a function inverse to the function $f(x, y)$. As a result, the inverse function $g(z)$ receives the new address as one input value and generates the original address and the original program identifier as the

two output values. *See*, page 13, lines 11-13 of the specification. Following the generation of the original address and program identifier by the inverse function, at the next step, e.g. step 403 in Fig. 4, a network-address table 308 is searched for a network address associated with the program identifier and a logical volume identifier represented by the original address.

Tanaka is relied upon for disclosing an IO requesting method in which a program identifier is disclosed. Specifically, the Office Action refers to LPAR-ID 380 in Fig. 3 of Tanaka. However, Applicants respectfully note that the LPAR-ID of Tanaka and the program identifier of the claimed invention are not equivalent. In particular, the LPAR-ID of Tanaka is a parameter embedded in a data frame, whereas the program identifier of the present invention is a parameter appended to an address. Further, Tanaka discloses a system implemented in a main frame computer environment, unlike the present invention, which is not limited to a special computer and a special OS respectively. *See*, page 11, line 18 to page 12, line 11 of the specification, for example. Accordingly, the invention as set forth in claims 1 and 2 is not anticipated by Tanaka and therefore the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka should be withdrawn.

Serial No. 10/759,204

Amendment

Response to Office Action mailed December 26, 2006

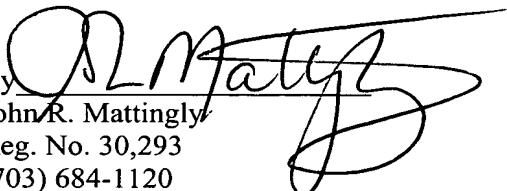
Docket No. NIT-407

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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